

ways. Some say he was too conservative. Some say he was not progressive enough. But he made his mark wherever he went.

I will remember the Pope for the strength he showed throughout his life. It all started in reading the book about this great man. In the face of communism, he stood with the people of Eastern Europe and empowered them in their pursuit of freedom. In the face of hunger and despair, he challenged powerful nations, including our own to do more to reach out and lift up our struggling neighbors. In the rush to war, he sought peace always. At the end of his days when sickness had taken his physical strength, he still showed grace and courage in tending to his flock.

The last pictures we see of the Pope in some of our minds' eye, having gone through surgery, he was still standing in front of the throng that came to see him, and still doing his very best to speak. He couldn't speak. How frustrating that must have been.

There are many lessons we can draw from the life of Pope John Paul II. He traveled the globe more than any Pope in history. He was a skier in addition to being the Pope. He skied while he was the Pope.

He did not have to travel the world, but he did, realizing that he brought the spotlight of media and attention to the cause of many who otherwise would have been ignored.

He was shot by a would-be assassin. As soon as he was physically able, he went to the prison cell of the man who shot him and forgave him in the prison cell in a one-on-one meeting with his would-be assassin.

We now know as a result of that assassin's attempt they developed a new vehicle for him. In this age of terror, the Popemobile is something we all understand. He waved to people from this little bulletproof vehicle which he rode around in like a golf cart. It was not a limousine. It was the Popemobile.

He also reached out to leaders. He did not always agree with these leaders he reached out to, recognizing that problems are better solved by working together. In our own country, he reached out to former Presidents Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton, and worked closely with our current President. He did not alienate or reject leaders who disagreed with him. He sought common ground in championing the causes of his fellow man.

But ultimately, I believe the life of Pope John Paul II is a reminder that one man or one woman can make a difference. It does not matter where we are born. It does not matter what we aspire to early in life. It can change for the better. It does not matter what paths we have wandered. We all have the ability to rise up and help our fellow man in immeasurable ways. There is no better example of that than Pope John Paul II.

As the world mourns the loss of the Pope, may we keep that lesson in mind,

and find inspiration in his life and the work he has accomplished.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

#### MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL HIESTER

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Bluffton. Master Sergeant Michael Hiester, 33 years old, was one of four Indiana National Guardsmen who died on March 26 when a land mine exploded under their military vehicle south of Kabul. With his life before him, Michael risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A devoted father of two young children, Michael served as a part-time firefighter in his hometown of Bluffton, in addition to being a member of the Indiana National Guard. Like most things Michael set his mind to, he was successful in his military career. A full-time Guardsman since 1990, Michael was promoted to master sergeant 3 months ago. He had previously served his country in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of the Indiana Guard's peacekeeping assignment. According to friends and family, Michael was also a real estate appraiser and an avid athlete who loved diving and cycling. Mayor Ted Ellis shared memories of Michael with the Associated Press, saying, that he "was just the kind of guy that every parent wants their child to be like—outgoing and hardworking and always thinking about something that they could do out there for the community." I stand here today to express gratitude for Michael's sacrifices and for those made by the entire Hiester family on behalf of our country.

Michael was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. He was a member of the Indiana National Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade. This brave young soldier leaves behind his wife Dawn, a 6-year-old daughter, Emily, and a 4-year-old son, Adam.

Today, I join Michael's family, his friends and the entire Bluffton community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Michael, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Michael was known for his dedication to family and his love of country.

Today and always, Michael will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Michael's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Michael's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Michael Hiester in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Michael's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Michael.

#### ARMY SPECIALIST BRETT M. HERSHEY

Mr. President, I also wish to honor the life of a brave young man who grew up in Indianapolis. Army SPC Brett M. Hershey, 23 years old, was one of four Indiana National Guardsmen who died on March 26th when a land mine exploded under their military vehicle south of Kabul. With his entire life before him, Brett risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 2000 graduate of North Central High School in Indianapolis, Brett was just seven credits shy of graduating from Indiana University in Bloomington, when he left for Afghanistan. Friends and teachers recount that at North Central, Brett was a model student with an ever-present smile, who was involved in religious groups, varsity lacrosse and student government. Brett's older brother, Nate, recalled his brother's vibrant spirit when speaking to the Indianapolis Star saying, Brett "loved people very well, and he loved them because his first love was Jesus. He was funny, witty and passionate about just sucking the marrow out of life. He always wanted people to know they were loved."

Brett was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. He was a member of the Indiana National Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade. This brave young soldier leaves